



City of Wenatchee

# 2010 Annual Report

## Greetings, Wenatchee Citizens!

Creating community through responsive leadership and services for the citizens and visitors of the Apple Capital of the World. This is the City's Vision Statement, and in 2009 this Vision Statement became incredibly important as we faced one of the most challenging budget years in recent memory. First, I would like to recognize the ongoing accomplishments of the City team:

► Our Planning and Engineering Departments provided timely review to issue the needed permits to move the \$150 million Central Washington Hospital expansion forward.

This project is a huge stimulus for our region and a testament to the strength of the health care sector in our region.

► City staff, who were part of a transition team of Events Center staff, Public Facilities District Board members and City Council members led a process to transition the Events Center to self management in a 90-day period. Their work also saved the Public Facilities District from findings associated with the lack of accounting back up provided by the former manager, Global Entertainment.

► Our Parks and Recreation Department worked to assure the installation of new playgrounds in Methow and Pennsylvania Parks. These playgrounds were a welcome addition for these neighborhoods.

► Under the leadership of our Public Works Department, we cut the ribbon on Riverside Drive, and began the process to repaint the Wenatchee Reclamation Bridge as a benefit to the region for the next 100 years of its service.

► In anticipation of the onset of the HINI virus, a City team led by our Human Resources Department and Fire Chief, ensured the City had a plan to deal with spread of the infection and potential absences.

► The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center welcomed the Women's Suffrage exhibit. This was a great accomplishment for our Museum, which put Wenatchee on the map for traveling exhibits. Director Brenda Abney also was elected as President of the Washington Museum Association.

► Our Fire Department continued to provide incredible

service to our residents and businesses dealing with the Fontanelle Fire and the Go USA building (former Stemilt warehouse) fire; both were devastating but were dealt with quickly and efficiently minimizing damage to adjacent structures.

► Our Information Technology Department implemented the Citizen Help Desk program. This is a great service for anyone who wants to report an issue and ensure that it is tracked and dealt with. Check out the City's webpage at [www.wenatcheewa.gov](http://www.wenatcheewa.gov).

► Our City Attorney led the City through a challenge of the County with the Eastern Washington

Growth Management Hearings Board and we look forward to working more closely with the County on joint planning in the future as a result.

► In our Police Department, we recognize Sgt. Cherie Smith for her work with the Mental Health community and Sgt. John Kruse in solving the old murder cases with Douglas County.

► Finally, as the year ended we elected Tony Veeder, a new member

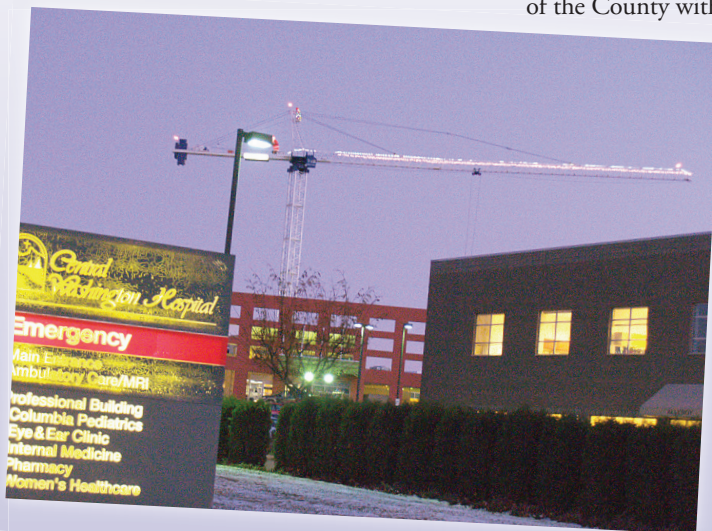
of City Council and confirmed the membership of Karen Rutherford, Jim Bailey and Doug Miller. We were not successful with our Fire Bond and we will be evaluating our next steps with that proposition in the coming year.

Toward the end of 2009, we worked diligently to balance a 2010 budget without compromising city services. We had several employees take advantage of retirement: Marcia Avey, Rick Murray, Kris Bassett and Gary Babst. We also said goodbye to two City employees, whose positions would not be refilled: Sandra Smeller and Rick Smith.

As we look ahead to 2010, we hope we have preserved the city services that are provided. We do expect several years of tight budget as we move forward, and we look forward to the input of our citizens in how to continue to serve you better. In the mean time, keep investing in Wenatchee!

Warmly,

Mayor Dennis Johnson



# Budget 2010: A balance of services, revenues & cuts

**For the City of Wenatchee, the national recession began to appear in the first quarter of 2009.**

Until then, the City had several large construction projects which kept the retail sales tax revenues strong, but in early 2009 sales tax revenues began to slow, indicating as much as a 15 percent reduction by the end of 2009—which meant city revenues could be off by as much as \$1.2 million.

As a result, the City embarked on an intensive process to begin looking at cuts and revenue enhancements for 2009 and 2010:

**April, 2009:** The City Council held a work session to understand the status of the budget.

**June 3:** The Mayor met with department directors and initiated a freeze on hiring and travel.

**June 29:** Department directors and several Council members met for half a day to create budget reductions or enhancements for 2009/2010.

**July 30:** The Council approved a \$1,177,959 reduction to the city's 2009 budget.

**Aug. 13:** The City initiated a voluntary early retirement program to encourage retirements for those who were eligible.

**Sept. 17:** The City Council held an additional work session to identify the status of the budget.

**Oct. 8:** The preliminary budget for 2010 indicated that the City was still more than \$1 million short of having revenues meet expenses.

**After Oct. 8,** City officials looked at ways to restructure city departments while maintaining service to residents, mindful that the City:

- ▶ **Maintains 250 lane miles of street** (including upkeep, snowplowing, weed control, etc);

- ▶ **Maintains 13 parks** (over 80 acres), 300 street trees and over 49 city facilities with 330,000 square feet of space;

- ▶ **Manages funds from two**

**counties** to benefit 19 low income and homeless housing projects;

- ▶ **Maintains 48 traffic signals and 1,900 street lights;**

- ▶ **Maintains 106 miles of water mains,** 116 miles of sanitary sewers and 125 miles of storm sewers under our roads;

- ▶ **Provides treasury/finance service** for the Regional Water system and the Greater Wenatchee Regional Events Center Public Facilities District;

- ▶ **Provides over 2,500 calls of fire service personnel to life/safety issues;**

- ▶ **Provides more than 20,797 calls to**

**dramatically since 2000.**

- ▶ **The actual cost for providing services has continued to escalate.**

- ▶ **Traffic volumes have escalated.**

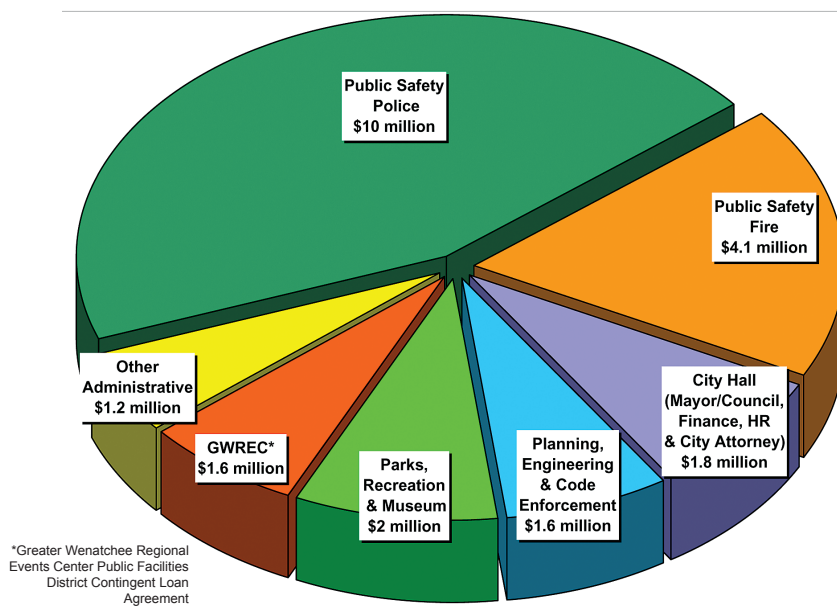
So to balance the need to provide service and the need to cut staff, the City **eliminated two Director positions and did not fill 6.33 positions for 2010.**

In addition, some fees were increased to offset the cost of providing a service:

- ▶ **Effective Jan. 1, parking tickets were raised to \$30** and several parking violations were raised to \$124.

- ▶ **Effective Jan. 1, street cuts fees**

2010 General Fund Budget breakdown



**police incidents;**

- ▶ **Provides staff for 14 City advisory boards**

In the meantime,

- ▶ **Revenues were down 15 percent.**

- **Since 2002, the city's population had grown 11 percent.**

- ▶ **The City would be trying to provide the same level of service with 192 employees, eight fewer than it had in 2009.**

- ▶ **Technology needs had grown**

**were raised** to reflect the true cost of maintaining the street after it is cut.

- ▶ **Effective May 1, Building, Planning, Engineering and Fire Code fees will be increased,** and will vary depending on the value of what is being built/developed

**What can citizens do?**

Your input can help the city understand your priorities for service!

And remember, **every dollar you spend locally allows your city to maintain its level of service to you!**



# Making strides towards a healthier economy

## Develop the waterfront and the jobs will come.

That was the focus of the 20-year vision the City's leaders created in 2000, to bring new businesses and employment into Wenatchee. Now, 10 years into that plan, the city has accomplished many of its critical goals, with the help of our economic development partners.

In 2004, the City adopted the Wenatchee Waterfront Subarea Plan with the help of its partners—the State of Washington, Chelan County PUD and Port of Chelan County. The City Council then identified priority projects and went to work to find funding to make it happen.

One of the most important projects completed

in 2009 was **Riverside Drive**, a big part of the more than \$73 million that has been invested in Wenatchee's waterfront since the plan's adoption in 2004. And along the waterfront, near the Orondo Boat Launch, the **Wenatchee Riverfront Day Use moorage project** was completed in the fall and Art on the Avenues dedicated a new addition to its **sculpture garden** on the waterfront adjacent to the **Wenatchee Riverfront Railway**, which also added a new building for its operation.

Why is Riverside Drive critical? The Waterfront Subarea Plan identified the amount of growth the waterfront could accommodate IF the needed transportation, water, sewer and fiber infrastructure were in place. Riverside Drive is a critical component as it brings that area's infrastructure up to a level to accommodate the coming new development.

**What does growth do for the city?** It creates revenue, so that City leaders don't have to look to taxes or other sources of revenue in order to maintain basic services for our citizens like police and fire.

Four Washington state agencies provided significant grant funds that assisted with the transformation of our waterfront:

▶ \$473,000 from the state **Recreation and Conservation Office** for the Day Use Moorage project;

▶ \$10 million from the state **Community Economic Revitalization Board** for Walla Walla Street Improvements and the Town Toyota Center acquisition;

▶ \$40,000 from the state **Growth Management Division** for planning Riverside Drive;

▶ \$4.8 million from the state **Transportation Improvement Board** for the design and construction of Riverside Drive;

We also had local partners:

▶ **The Port of Chelan County** provided up to \$240,000 to complete the Wenatchee Riverfront Day Use Moorage;

▶ **The Chelan County Public Utility District** took on the maintenance and operation of the Day Use Moorage;

▶ **The Wenatchee Arts Commission** commissioned the sculpture "Convergence" by Mark Stasz, for the center of the Riverside Drive roundabout.

▶ **Riverside Drive property owners** are part of a \$2.5 million Local Improvement District that helped to fund the project

As a result, several private projects are in the works that will result in millions of dollars in reinvestment in Wenatchee's core. A 2003 Economic Impact Analysis estimated that Wenatchee would see more than \$239 million in private reinvestment in the Waterfront as a result of the aggressive implementation of the Waterfront Plan.

Furthermore, thanks to the efforts of Public Works Director of Engineering

Steve King and Assistant Planner John Ajax, Wenatchee has a new Local Revitalization Financing District, which has identified funding for more projects, including:

▶ Parking improvements on the waterfront  
▶ Gateway improvements at Orondo  
▶ The Public Works site environmental remediation  
▶ The Pybus Market Project, a new public-private partnership project under consideration with the Port of Chelan County and surrounding private property owners to develop Wenatchee's southern waterfront node for the purposes of a public market. U.S. Sen. Patty Murray has identified \$1.5 million in funding to assist with this project.



Concept Illustration  
Pybus Public Market  
Wenatchee, Washington





# The Mayor & City Council



Position 1  
**Jim Bailey**  
662-2751  
jmbailey@wenatcheeva.gov



Position 2  
**Tony Veeder**  
665-6981  
tveeder@wenatcheeva.gov



Position 3  
**Karen Rutherford**  
662-2039  
krutherford@wenatcheeva.gov



Position 4  
**Doug Miller**  
669-1902  
dmiller@wenatcheeva.gov



Position 5  
**Mark Kulaas**  
662-6059 (h); 884-7173 (w)  
mkulaas@wenatcheeva.gov

The Wenatchee City Council meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall.



Position 6  
**Don Gurnard**  
663-8873 (h); 393-1412 (c)  
dgurnard@wenatcheeva.gov



Mayor  
**Dennis Johnson**  
888-6204  
djohnson@wenatcheeva.gov



Position 7  
**Carolyn Case**  
393-2367  
ccase@wenatcheeva.gov

For a calendar of city meetings and events, visit <http://www.wenatcheeva.gov/Index.aspx?page=35>

## Recognition & awards for the City and its staff

**Tammy Stanger** was selected as the **new City Clerk** on Dec. 7. Stanger has been a legal assistant for 17 years, most recently with City Attorney Steve Smith and the firm Johnson, Gaukroger, Woollett & Smith.



*City Clerk*  
**Tammy Stanger**

Stanger and her husband, Brant, have two teen-age daughters.

The City received the first annual **IACC People's Choice Community Impact Award** for its new waterfront street, Riverside Drive, from the Washington State Infrastructure

Assistance Coordinating Council Conference.

**Brenda Abney**, director of the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, was **elected President of the Washington Museum Association**. As President she will work with the Board of Directors to facilitate the use of the highest professional museum standards; advocate for museum issues on a local, state and national level and provide leadership furthering the role of museums as community partners in education.

The City received an **AWC Well City Award for Excellence in Employee Health promotion**, and Parks and Recreation Director **David Erickson**

**won the AWC Wellness Award.**

The City received the **American Heart Association Start! Fit Friendly Company Gold Award** for employee fitness

**Wenatchee Police Sgt. Cherie Smith** was recognized by the Washington State Community Mental Health Council with a **"Hero Award."** Over two dozen individuals were nominated statewide for this award. Smith was recognized for her work to conduct training for the Crisis Intervention Team and support mental health efforts locally and statewide. As a result of Smith's work, more than 50 percent of the Wenatchee Police Department has been trained in Crisis Intervention.



### Park & play

With \$162,446 from two Community Development Block Grants, the city improved the play areas at two of its oldest neighborhood parks in 2009—Methow (left) and Pennsylvania parks. The projects included colorful new play equipment at both parks.